



PEPPERELL

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The small town of Pepperell is situated 35 miles northwest of Boston in rolling hill country at the junction of the Nissitissit and Nashua Rivers adjacent to the New Hampshire border. Once a thriving mill town and farming community, there are two paper mills and a braiding factory still in operation in the east village section. Bypassed by major transportation routes, the town is more isolated and less developed than other towns and has become a predominantly commuter suburb. More than 10,000 people call Pepperell home, yet the town does not have a chain supermarket, a commercial bank, a fast-food restaurant or even a traffic light. Several large undeveloped land areas along with three 200-acre farms and the lack of extensive commercial and industrial development support residents in their characterization of Pepperell as a rural community.

The town takes pride in several unique attractions and events. Pepperell spring water, first place quality winner the 1939 World's Fair, continues to be sold by commercial bottling companies. The Warrant Veterans Fireman's Association owns and shows antique firefighting equipment throughout New England, while the volunteer fire department hosts a firemen's muster annually in August. A day-long Fourth of July celebration, a 300-team soccer tournament that brings in over 50,000 people in October, homemade ice-cream and what residents boast of as the cleanest, best trout fishing river in the state all provide pleasure to Pepperell residents and visitors.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northern Massachusetts, bordered by Townsend on the west; Hollis and Brookline, New Hampshire, on the north; Dunstable on the east; and Groton on the southeast and east. Pepperell is 15 miles north of Fitchburg, 18 miles west of Lowell, 35 miles northwest of Boston, and 215 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 23.17 sq. miles

Land Area: 22.56 sq. miles

Population: 10,098

Density: 448 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Pepperell, Townsend

Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 433-0333

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1775

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	5,372		
Democrats	1,347	25.1	%
Republicans	1,041	19.4	%
Other parties	28	0.5	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,956	55.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Pepperell town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	11,142	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	11,142	100.0
Male.....	5,481	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	114	1.0
Female.....	5,661	50.8	Mexican.....	18	0.2
Under 5 years.....	867	7.8	Puerto Rican.....	38	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,021	9.2	Cuban.....	8	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	990	8.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	50	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	810	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	11,028	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	406	3.6	White alone.....	10,763	96.6
25 to 34 years.....	1,423	12.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,259	20.3	Total population.....	11,142	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,767	15.9	In households.....	11,137	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	473	4.2	Householder.....	3,847	34.5
60 to 64 years.....	294	2.6	Spouse.....	2,520	22.6
65 to 74 years.....	479	4.3	Child.....	4,013	36.0
75 to 84 years.....	268	2.4	Own child under 18 years.....	3,256	29.2
85 years and over.....	85	0.8	Other relatives.....	376	3.4
Median age (years).....	35.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	127	1.1
18 years and over.....	7,728	69.4	Nonrelatives.....	381	3.4
Male.....	3,737	33.5	Unmarried partner.....	184	1.7
Female.....	3,991	35.8	In group quarters.....	5	-
21 years and over.....	7,366	66.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,006	9.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	5	-
65 years and over.....	832	7.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	336	3.0	Total households.....	3,847	100.0
Female.....	496	4.5	Family households (families).....	3,016	78.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,715	44.6
One race.....	11,009	98.8	Married-couple family.....	2,520	65.5
White.....	10,826	97.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,423	37.0
Black or African American.....	52	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	368	9.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	14	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	220	5.7
Asian.....	80	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	831	21.6
Asian Indian.....	6	0.1	Householder living alone.....	670	17.4
Chinese.....	13	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	232	6.0
Filipino.....	6	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,802	46.8
Japanese.....	13	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	615	16.0
Korean.....	21	0.2	Average household size.....	2.89	(X)
Vietnamese.....	3	-	Average family size.....	3.29	(X)
Other Asian ¹	18	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	3,917	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,847	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	70	1.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	12	0.3
Some other race.....	37	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	133	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.3	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,847	100.0
White.....	10,954	98.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,055	79.4
Black or African American.....	70	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	792	20.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	73	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.05	(X)
Asian.....	118	1.1	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.31	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-			
Some other race.....	63	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	70
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	5
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway of northern Worcester county is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 111 and 113.

Rail

Commuter rail service to Boston is accessible in Ayer and is provided by Amtrak on contract to the MBTA.

Bus

Pepperell is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA). No fixed bus service is available, but paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled through LRTA's Road Runner program.

Other

The Pepperell Sports Center Airport, located in Pepperell, has facilities for soaring and skydiving.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.